

KCN Genovique 4/6

To the editor: The letter to the editor of April 2 from Joe Morrison, plant manager at Genovique's Worton plant (formerly Velsicol) regarding the Chester River Association's statements on environmental compliance by Genovique raises a host of issues - all of which are largely irrelevant. What is relevant is this:

Genovique's permit to discharge chemicals into the ground expired more than two years ago. The permit needs to be renewed, with new and tougher standards to protect Kent citizens and the Chester River.

That expired permit contains no limits on discharge of phosphorus because Velsicol never informed the Maryland Department of the Environment that it was discharging significant levels of phosphorus in the first place. The permit also contains no

limits on discharge of nitrogen. Both chemicals are potentially harmful to the river and continue to flow into it.

If Genovique is truly "dedicated to the health and well-being of community residents, the environment and (their) employees," why does the company continue discharging chemicals that are known to be dangerous? Those include benzene, toluene and phthalates.

The truth is that the questions raised by CRA about Genovique's environmental compliance are aimed as much at MDE as they are at Genovique. Marylanders deserve an MDE response to environmental problems that is timely, comprehensive and effective. So far, CRA finds the process slow, flawed by laxity and ineffective.

We would like both Genovique and MDE to do better.

Tom Leigh
Chester Riverkeeper